



crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Winter 2012

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Southern goes
Hollywood as
alumni return

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Outstanding Alumna Betsy Banks, '91, waves to fans at the 2011 Homecoming game. Cover illustration by Amber Heiskell, '12; photo by Mike Gullett.



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

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Greetings MSSU Alumni!

We hope you find this issue of *Crossroads* to be interesting and entertaining, as we've provided you an array of stories of what's happening on campus, features of some of our alumni, and how our programs and students are making a difference.

We are so proud that *Crossroads*, a student-produced magazine for the Alumni Association, recently won two awards.

As you read this issue, we are quickly preparing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Missouri Southern, starting in August 2012 and ending in May 2013. With that in mind, we hope you will take the time to answer some questions, either by filling out the form on Page 40 and sending it to us by mail, sending your answers in an email, or answering the online questionnaire by going to www.mssu.edu/alumni, clicking on Update Your Information, and then selecting the 75th Anniversary Alumni Survey.

This information will be used in a variety of ways, including in our 75th anniversary book, at special events on display throughout the year, and on our anniversary website. Just think how fun it will be to see the answers and share them with each other at the different events we plan to have next year. So, please be sure to let us know your answers to the questions and help us celebrate the past 75 years of Missouri Southern!

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86
Alumni Director



Greetings, alumni and friends!

Our fall 2011 issue was definitely one of the hardest to put together for our staff, but all of the comments after the magazine came out helped us know that it was worth the effort.



That issue focused on Missouri Southern's response in the days and months after the devastating May 22 tornado.

"Wow, you made me cry all over again."

This was a typical comment made by many of our readers. While it was not our intent to make people sad, we did feel it was important to record for generations to come the generosity that poured into the area this past year. And to be honest, many of us also cried as we proofed the pages before they went to print.

As we near the one-year mark, our student staff is already working on more stories of hope and inspiration. We look forward to showing you how much the Joplin area has progressed in our spring issue, which will come out in June. I've said it before, we're tough stock in southwest Missouri, and when we pull together, anything is possible!

So thank you for reading **crossroads** and letting us know what you think. We always welcome your comments, as we keep you informed on items important to Lion alumni and friends.

Warm regards,

Rhonda Clark '00

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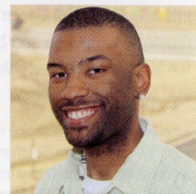
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MSSU, Joplin face new challenges

You may notice a new name and photo in this column. We are sad to report that Dr. Mark Parsons left Missouri Southern last fall to accept a similar position



near his hometown in Minnesota. We are grateful for all the hard work he put into helping the students at Southern, and while we were sorry to see him go, we certainly understand

his desire to be close to his family.

I can especially empathize with Dr. Parsons' move since family is what brought me back to Joplin nearly two years ago. I grew up in Joplin, graduated from Southern, and then moved away for graduate school and jobs and was gone for 20 years. I was ready to come home, and I was thrilled to join the development team as the major gifts officer in January 2010. I know I have big shoes to fill stepping into Mark's position, but the opportunity to continue to serve my alma mater in this new capacity is an exciting one.

Dr. Parsons was the first vice president for development, and he began the process of bringing under one umbrella the areas of the Missouri Southern Foundation, alumni relations, university relations and marketing, and grants. The departments had existed independently for some time, but not as one division. Mark worked with us to develop a mission and to work more collaboratively. We're now building on what he started by developing an integrated strategic plan. Over

the coming months, we'll be examining our strengths and weaknesses, seeking input from external stakeholders, and using all this to build our plan. In the meantime, everyone continues to work hard to serve you and our students.

We're in challenging times for sure. Joplin has a long road ahead recovering from the tornado, additional state budget cuts are looming, and the economy is still fighting its way back. That said, many wonderful things are happening on campus.

I continue to be impressed by our students, alumni and community. And, we're extremely proud of how each of you responded after the tornado. You sent donations, you volunteered time at the American Red Cross Shelter, you conducted fundraisers across the country, you brought wheelchairs for those in need, and the list goes on.

Know that we bragged about you recently when five members of our staff made a presentation at a conference. We shared our story about the MSSU family's response to the tornado with attendees at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VI conference, hoping to help them should they have a tragedy strike their communities. Let me just say that people like you make this a special place to work.

So thank you for all you do, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to give our students a great education.

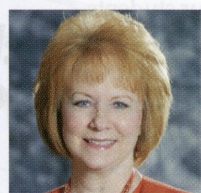
— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation



University President Bruce Speck and JoAnn Graffam, '87, vice president for development/executive director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, listen as Sherry Buchanan, chair of the MSSU Board of Governors, addresses the crowd at the One State One Spirit Classic Presented by Leggett & Platt between the Lions and the MU Tigers on October 30, 2011, at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. — Photo by Mike Gullett

Project helps replant 'roots' in Joplin

After the May 22, 2011, tornado ravaged nearly 30 percent of the city of Joplin, Future Business Leaders of America, at the high school level, and Phi Beta Lambda, at



the collegiate level, began looking for ways to assist with the replanting of trees in a once green and vibrant community.

Thousands of grand oak, elm and hickory trees that lined Joplin's neighborhoods and city parks were felled, and the few left standing were stripped of their bark, eventually to be cut down. Now that the sound of chain saws has ceased, the student organizations are eager to get started.

Chris Fenske, '91, PBL adviser at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, and former Cassville (Missouri) High School FBLA adviser, introduced the idea of replenishing trees for homeowners to Christina Hess, state adviser for FBLA-PBL.

"Immediately following the tornado, Missouri FBLA-PBL knew we wanted to help our friends in Joplin but weren't sure the most appropriate way to go about it," Hess said. "When the project 'Rooting for Joplin' was suggested, we all knew this was the way for us to help. The idea quickly grew into a statewide community service project for both the high school and collegiate level."

The Missouri State FBLA-PBL State Officer team, alongside Fenske and Hess, organized "Rooting for Joplin." Missouri Southern has

two students serving as PBL state officers: Randon Coffey, senior management major, is vice president, and Clarissa Essary, senior marketing major, is reporter.

"To have a project that brings high school students together with college students, and then these young adults giving back to a community is a testament to what young leaders can accomplish," Fenske said. "After an event such as May 22 in Joplin, it is easy to focus on the devastation and heartbreaking stories. Our goal for this project is to help bring a feeling of hope for the future."

On May 5, 2012, hundreds of FBLA-PBL members and volunteers will come to the MSSU campus to help replant trees lost from the tornado. Joplin residents who are rebuilding could request up to three trees for their yards from four tree varieties before February 17. If you are interested in donating in support of the "Rooting for Joplin" campaign, please go to www.rootingforjoplin.org for information. "Rooting for Joplin" is also on Facebook.

Stu Dunlop, SOBA marketing instructor and PBL adviser, said SOBA students, faculty and staff will take part in the event.

"We're looking forward to bringing our students and students from high schools and other colleges across the state together for this outreach opportunity," Dunlop said. "The entire SOBA community is thrilled to be able to give back to Joplin through this exciting project."

— Dr. Beverly Block, Interim Dean, Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration



From left, Randon Coffey, Gov. Jay Nixon, Georganne Nixon, Clarissa Essary, Chris Fenske, and Cindy Quinly gather in front of Duquesne Elementary School, which is serving as the temporary home of Emerson Elementary in Joplin, Missouri. The state FBLA-PBL has started "Rooting for Joplin" to help replenish trees that were destroyed in the May 22 tornado. Coffey and Essary are Phi Beta Lambda state officers and seniors at Missouri Southern. — Submitted photo

Brainiacs shine on MSSU airwaves

KXMS Radio was surprised to discover a hidden world in 2010. Southern's radio service uncovered a robust statewide network of exceptional high school students



who play competitive matches. No, we are not talking about video gaming, but rather the world of high school quiz bowl. Probably just like you, KXMS Radio was unaware of just how

organized the high school scholars, the secondary school "mathletes" of Missouri, really are.

These avid competitors came to our attention during our development of a radio quiz bowl program series, similar to the old "GE College Bowl" of the 1950s and 1960s. We asked ourselves, "What can we do to bring Missouri Southern State University to the attention of some of the brightest high school students in our region?" The answer to that question is summed up in the title of our new venture: Brain Games.

Both high school and college-level Brain Games matches will take place in Corley Auditorium at Webster Hall on the MSSU campus. While the college-level play will be less formal, pitting campus clubs and fraternities against each other in trivia matches, the high school matchups will be sanctioned by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Quiz bowl in some states has no official oversight, but here in Missouri, the same folks who set down the rules for high school basketball and football also make the rules for high school quiz bowl. Quiz bowl is taken seriously in Missouri!

Brain Games will be similar to the quiz bowl matches played regularly throughout Missouri each year, between October and May.

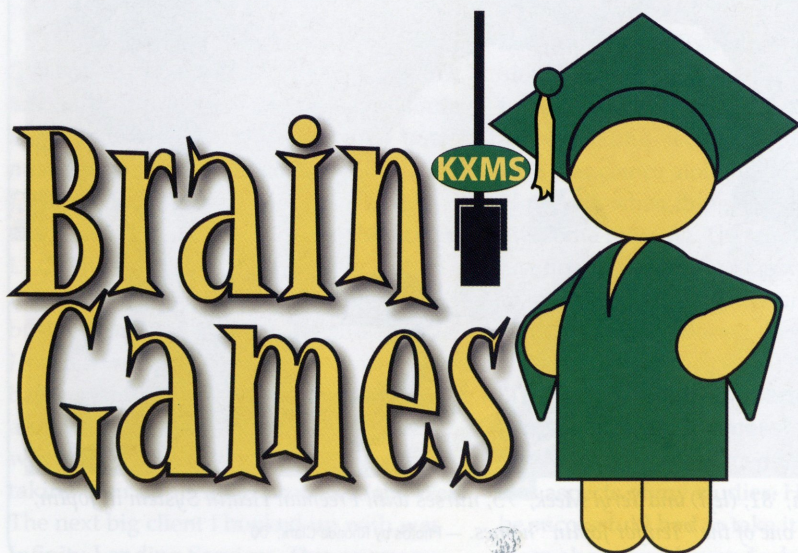
The only real difference is that Brain Games will involve only one match at a time (high school tournaments can involve all-day matches), and Brain Games will have an intermission feature — a live musical interlude before the third-quarter play.

While the questions for the college-level play will come from various sources, the high school matches will have a set of 50 questions specially purchased from authorized sources, such as the National Association of Quiz Tournaments. These question sets are not easy. Derived from the curriculum of the high schools in modern-day Missouri, these are not your grandfather's questions; the advanced math questions can be daunting. Normal questions about geography, history and literature permit five seconds for response, while written computation questions allow 15 seconds before the bell.

Some of the advanced math questions confound me, the Brain Games' quizmaster. The questions appear to be in English, but don't make much sense to someone who graduated from high school in 1971. Shakespeare may still be the same, but many of the questions read in the first Brain Games taping on December 12 required the expertise of a modern-day high school student.

It should be enlightening and fun. Let the games begin!

— Jeff Skibbe, General Manager,
88.7 KXMS/Fine Arts Radio International
and host-executive producer of Brain Games



You can keep up with Brain Games by checking out the Facebook pages for Brain Games and KXMS.

Missouri governor appoints three new Board members

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed two new members and a student representative to the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors in November 2011. The new governors are Charles (Chuck) Surface, '69, and James B. Fleischaker. The new student representative is David Sigars.

Surface has served as director of economic development for the city of Webb City, Missouri, since 2007 and directed efforts to have the city named a certified local government and to create a downtown historic district and historic commission.

He served 18 years in the Missouri General Assembly, representing the 128th and 129th districts, after being first elected in 1984; was presiding commissioner of Jasper County from 2003 to 2006; and also served on the Joplin City Council.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Surface is a graduate of Missouri Southern State University and is a past recipient of the university's Outstanding Alumnus Award. Over the years, he also has been active in

numerous local civic and nonprofit organizations.

Fleischaker is a former circuit judge for Jasper County and has served as a Joplin Special Road District commissioner. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce from 1994 to 2002 and served as chairman in 2001 and 2002. Fleischaker is a member of the Jasper County Bar Association, the Missouri Bar, and the Southwest Missouri Estate Planning Council. He served as president of the Estate Planning Council in 1990-1991.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and attended Law School at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a member of Phi Delta Phi, the world's second largest legal fraternity.

He serves on the City of Joplin Personnel Board and the Freeman Health System Board of Directors in addition to several other civic boards and committees.

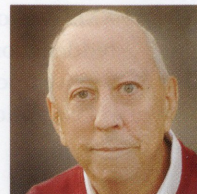
A member of the Fleischaker & Wil-

liams, L.C. firm in Joplin, his practice focuses on various areas including probate law, estate planning, property law and family law.

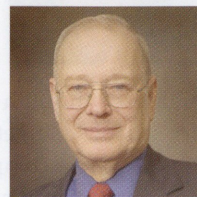
Sigars is a junior speech communication major from Neosho. He is treasurer/finance chair for the MSSU Student Senate and is a member of the MSSU Iota Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national scholastic honor society.

In order to be eligible for the Alpha Chi organization, students must be juniors or seniors with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.7 or above.

— From Staff Reports



Charles (Chuck) Surface, '69



James B. Fleischaker



David Sigars

Calling all authors ...

Are you a Joplin Junior College or Missouri Southern alum or faculty member who has written and published a book?

We are looking for you! The MSSU Alumni Association wants to feature you and your work in the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

Please contact us at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center at 417-625-9355 or send an email to Pound-L@mssu.edu.



For several weeks in November, hundreds of volunteers from across the country worked to put 10 families into homes by Thanksgiving. Many of those volunteers were Missouri Southern employees, students and alumni. To see more on this great project that was sponsored by the Habitat for Humanity from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Joplin, Missouri, please turn to page 15.

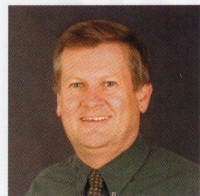


Bonnie Hardin, '81, (left) and Teryl Meek, '75, nurses with Freeman Health System in Joplin, trim shims for one of the "Ten for Joplin" homes. — Photos by Rhonda Clark, '00

'Land of Civilization' sparks interest

The Great Sphinx, the pyramids, the pharaohs, King Tut, Cleopatra, mummies, the Nile, the Egyptian revolution of 2011. Who couldn't find something fascinating about Egypt?

The Fall 2011 Egypt Semester drew a total of some 8,000 students, faculty and community residents to the 40 events — guest speakers, concerts, films, readings, even an all-Egyptian meal in the Mayes Dining Hall. This "themed semester" seemed to strike a chord with just about everyone.



Some of the causes of the 2011 Egyptian revolution, which began on January 25, were police brutality, blatant corruption, increasing poverty rates and the Tunisian revolution that began a month earlier and led to the overthrow of President Ben Ali.

The U.S. provides a considerable amount of foreign aid to Egypt, topped only by what it sends to Afghanistan, Iraq and Israel. The U.S. helped sustain the 30-year Hosni Mubarak regime with its annual \$1.3 billion of military aid.

While several of the Egypt Semester presentations focused on the political situation, we also explored the magnificent culture of this country. The Academy of Egyptian Dance, based in San Diego, presented "Haram! Unveiling the Mystery of the Forbidden Dance" to an audience of 850 on October 25 in the Taylor Performing Arts Center. The Seattle-based MB Orchestra, formerly of Alexandria, Egypt, brought "Melodies of the Nile" to the stage on November 10.

Several MSSU departments also make contributions to each of our themed semesters.

This fall, Southern Theatre presented Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" to 689 fans during a five-night run in October. The Southern Symphony Orchestra featured "A Musical Pyramid: A Concert of Egyptian Music" on November 3. The English department coordinated three readings, including *The Book of the Dead*. The First-Year Experience program and the Institute of International Studies teamed up to bring Rosemary Mahoney, author of *Down the Nile: Alone in a Fisherman's Skiff*, for three presentations and three book signings/Q&A sessions in November. All MSSU freshmen read *Down the Nile*, as it was selected as the common reader for 2011-12.

Our attention now turns to Southeast Asia, as we plan for the Fall 2012 Thailand Semester.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

Director, Institute of International Studies



The Sahar Dance Company performs a scarves dance during the presentation of "Haram! Unveiling The Mystery Of The Forbidden Dance" on October 25, 2011. — Photo by Mike Gullett

Egypt facts

- ▶ Egypt has at least 110 pyramids.
- ▶ King Tut reportedly died of anthrax poisoning.
- ▶ Egypt has the world's third-oldest and fourth-largest film industry.
- ▶ Oil, tourism, the Suez Canal and worker remittances (Egyptians working in the oil fields in the Gulf and sending the money home) are the major components of the economy.
- ▶ Egyptian cotton is the best in the world.
- ▶ The official population of Cairo cannot be determined, but estimates are as high as 20 million.
- ▶ Egypt is the most important state in the Middle East. It's the heart of the Arab world. What happens in Egypt has implications for the rest of the Arab world.
- ▶ Egypt has had only four presidents since becoming a republic in 1953: Muhammad Naguib (1953-54), Gamal Abdel Nasser (1954-70), Anwar El Sadat (1970-81), and Hosni Mubarak (1981-2011). Sadat won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 but was assassinated three years later.

Source: Egypt Semester speakers

Speaking the language

Area teachers become students as they learn how to help non-English speakers navigate the classroom and coursework.

Being a young student can be tough. Speaking in front of the classroom, writing book reports, and working through word problems are only a few daily stresses students face.

For students who speak English as a second language, it can be especially difficult.

Project S.P.E.A.K., or Speaking Proficiently Enables All Kids, is a government-funded program of the Missouri Southern Teacher Education Department working to change that fear and ensure all students are equipped to succeed in the classroom.

Project S.P.E.A.K. began as a result of a grant awarded in 2007 to the teacher education department. The grant totals \$1.3 million spread over five years and equips current and future teachers with tools to help English language learners, or ELLs, thrive in the classroom. The program consists of six courses, totaling 18 credit hours, and is an endorsement on a teacher's certificate.

Dr. Al Cade, teacher education department chair and Project S.P.E.A.K. director, said students benefit when teachers are better equipped to work with ELLs. As the local population becomes more diverse, teachers need to adapt to students' needs.

"Our mission is to develop educators for global society," Cade said. "That global village is here. So preparing our students to teach and work with all students and to

Project S.P.E.A.K. benefits

- ▶ Courses are offered at convenient times, online, or as hybrids
- ▶ Courses meet the requirements for Missouri TESOL endorsement
- ▶ Participants can complete the program in three to four semesters
- ▶ Grant provides financial support for books, tuition and professional development activities in the area of TESOL (Teachers for Speakers of Other Languages)

Source: Project S.P.E.A.K. brochure

help all students succeed is important."

The grant covers tuition and books and applies to MSSU education students and teachers in the seven participating Missouri districts: Carthage, Cassville, East Newton, Joplin, McDonald County, Monett and Neosho. Teachers from other districts may participate, although the grant will not cover their costs.

Peggy Day, Project S.P.E.A.K. coordinator, recalled her past experience as an instructor for ELLs and problems faced by both students and teachers.

"I taught English in high school, and I

had a classroom each time with about 30 students each semester. I might have one or two in the class who did not speak English, but I had to keep presenting content," Day said. "What we do in all these classes is give (participating students) methods to adapt so that they are still teaching their content, but they make it accessible for those students as well."

One of the biggest challenges for Project S.P.E.A.K. when it first began was recruiting people into the program. However, support from the seven districts involved and the teacher education department came through for the program.

District superintendents and assistant superintendents have sat in on Day's recruiting sessions to show their support, and the teacher education faculty has been enthusiastic as well. Day has spoken to all the clubs and most of the classrooms at some point.

"It's had an impact in that way, too. Everybody got on board," Day said.

Those who go through the program also gain valuable skills for future employers, especially those within the districts involved with Project S.P.E.A.K.

"We have people who honestly have jobs right now because they have ESL (English as a second language) endorsement. Those districts needed that so badly," Day said.

Students in the program were informed



Kayla Fultz, '09, works with a student at Carthage Junior High in Carthage, Missouri. Fultz completed the Project S.P.E.A.K. program in the fall of 2010. — Photo by Julie Lybarger, '11

they would have an edge in the teaching field because of the skills gained from the classes. Day said students are well educated in ESL, and it makes a difference when applying for teaching positions.

Kayla Fultz, a 2009 graduate of MSSU and a seventh grade teacher at Carthage Junior High, completed Project S.P.E.A.K. in the fall of 2010. In her first year of teaching, she taught 100 students. About five of

those students were ELLs, a small number compared to other classes, she said. Because of Project S.P.E.A.K., she felt well-trained, well-equipped, and well-prepared to handle the job.

Understanding how a language is learned and acquired was the most helpful information Fultz gained through Project S.P.E.A.K. The program also helped her to realize how difficult it can be for ELLs to

grasp or translate common English phrases and idioms into their native language. Fultz recalled one occasion in particular.

"I've been eyeballing your nails all hour; they are so cute," Fultz said to one of her female students.

The student politely smiled and shook her head, but puzzled silently over her teacher's words. As class continued the student slowly came to understand the

meaning of the expression.

"I just now realize what you said; you saw my nails," she later told Fultz after class. "I did not know what eyeballing was."

Without prior training through Project S.P.E.A.K., Fultz likely would have let the moment pass by without much thought.

However, Fultz embraced the incident as a reminder of how easily common expressions of the English language can be taken for granted. She is now more careful of what she says to her students and how she says it.

"Needless to say, I was the student and she was the teacher in that moment," Fultz said.

Project S.P.E.A.K. students have also put their knowledge to use outside their classrooms.

"I knew we had arrived when our graduates actually presented at the state conference," Cade said.

The students had presented workshops on various ESL topics.

"To me, that's huge. That speaks volumes," he said.

Cade said other students and teachers in the community have attended Project S.P.E.A.K. workshops and conferences, and have improved their classroom techniques with limited exposure to the program.

These individuals may not seek the ESL endorsement, but they learn useful terms and practices for the classroom, which Cade said is one of the great things

Nationalities, languages, dialects, ethnicity and geographical regions for each district in 2007:

Carthage: Spanish, Korean, Russian

Cassville: Spanish, Hmong

East Newton: Spanish, Hmong

Joplin: Uyghur, Spanish, Farsi, Filipino, Shona, Hindi, Pohnpeian, Micronesian, Pingelapese, Jamaican, Portuguese, Hiligaynon, Vietnamese, Gujarati, Magala, Thai, Chinese, Swahili

McDonald County: Spanish, Hmong

Monett: Guatemalan, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese

Neosho: Spanish, Micronesian, Pacific Islands, American Indian, Chinese, Pohnpeian, Cambodian, Haitian

Source: District Statistics & Demographics, Project S.P.E.A.K.

about Project S.P.E.A.K. and another reason he is grateful the program received funding.

"They know enough to be more effective with ELLs," he said. "That would not have happened without this grant."

Dr. Andrea Hellman, former Project S.P.E.A.K. research associate and an instructor in childhood education and family studies at Missouri State University, taught most of the classes for Project S.P.E.A.K. She said all the classes are specific to the needs of the seven districts and are up-to-date, research based, and recommended by the National Clearing-

house of English Language Acquisition and the U.S. Department of Education.

"We are preparing teachers to be successful in the very specific English language learner population in the districts that we partner with," Hellman said.

One of the most difficult aspects of teaching ESL classes is the diversity of the students' academic needs.

The future of Project S.P.E.A.K. depends on availability of a second grant after the initial grant runs out in 2012.

Day hopes to enhance the program to show it needs to be continued.

"We're pretty sure they're not going to just say, 'Keep doing the exact same thing you're doing.' We have to have a new approach to it," she said. "But we've got very good minds working on that."

"I just hope to continue this," Cade said. "Part of our role, as far as higher education, is being an outreach. It's part of our role as an institution."

Project S.P.E.A.K. does more than serve as an outreach. For many, it becomes the gateway to a better future.

"If you think about it, if we can't educate those students, then we've got this huge number of people who really are not going to be prepared for jobs other than whatever their parents have come here to do," Day said.

"But, we have this opportunity to open more doors to those students because we're putting that kind of teacher out there so they can learn." **C**

— Emily Seigel, '11

District Statistics (From 2007 data)	Carthage	Cassville	East Newton	Joplin	McDonald County	Monett	Neosho
Number of schools	7	4	3	19	8	5	9
Number of students	4,015	2,050	1,680	7,000+	3,815	2,173	4,247
Number of teachers	315	135	125	600+	305	203	282
Number of teachers with TESOL certification	12	1	0	7	4	5	5
Number of English Language learners	533	69	69	123	266	410	259
Amount of growth in ELLs 2002-2007	81.2%	47%	200%	Steady	Steady	66%	27%

Crossroads wins creativity award in 2011 international competition

Crossroads, the Missouri Southern Alumni Association publication, was an award recipient in the MarCom Awards 2011 competition.

The magazine's entry of the fall 2010 and spring 2011 issues was a Gold Winner in the Magazine/ Association category. MarCom Awards announced the winners for the 2011 international competition on November 7.

The competition recognizes outstanding creative achievement by marketing and communication professionals. More than 6,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada and several other countries were entered in the 2011 competition.

MarCom entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. The Arlington, Texas-based Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, administers and judges the MarCom Awards.

Winners received Platinum, Gold or

Honorable Mention awards. Go online to www.marcomawards.com for a complete list of winners.

MSSU Advancement team gives presentation on tornado response

The Missouri Southern Advancement team, which included JoAnn Graffam, '87, vice president for advancement; Elisa Bryant, '04, coordinator for the Alumni Association; Rod Surber, director of university relations and marketing; Steve Smith, '79, news bureau manager; and Michael Fontana, development officer, conducted a presentation at the January CASE VI Conference in Denver, Colorado. The presentation regarded tornado response by the university and Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association also won a silver award for Excellence in Communication: Periodicals, Internal Audience, Tabloid/ Newsletter. The publication submitted for competition was the *Crossroads* tornado relief newsletter sent in June to alumni and friends of the university. Other winners in this category included: gold, Iowa State Uni-

versity, Office of University Relations; and bronze, University of Kansas, University of Kansas Endowment Association.

At the conclusion of the conference, Graffam, Bryant, Smith and Fontana met with alumni living in Colorado.

Joplin physician wins fundraiser to 'Be a Maestro!' at May concert

Southern Symphony Orchestra launched the second annual Be a Maestro!, a fundraising program for the orchestra, in the fall semester. The conductor's podium was up for auction. On December 16, Dr. Kexi Liu, director of the orchestra, announced that Dr. Ralph Laraiso was the winner.

Laraiso, who works with Freeman Health System's rehabilitation services, will conduct a piece in the Southern Symphony Orchestra's May 1 concert.

Laraiso has always had an interest in classical music and opera and has enjoyed the musical entertainment in the Joplin community since moving there in 2011.

The fundraiser raised \$1,000.

— From Staff Reports

A solid foundation

Hard work helped prepare grad for a career in government.



To say that she is driven would be an understatement. Alumna Debi Durham exudes confidence and ambition and these traits are what have helped her succeed. She describes herself as a hard worker and attributes much of her success to the education she received at Missouri Southern State University.

After receiving her degree in 1984, Durham began her career at Joplin Magazine. After working a few years at the magazine, satisfied but longing to fulfill her interests in politics, she accepted a position on the Chamber of Commerce in Miami, Oklahoma.

This position would eventually lead to her current position as the Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development: a position she was appointed to by Governor Terry Branstad.

"I currently oversee a staff of over 130 employees as well as four international offices," said Durham, "I love what I do."

She displayed her talents for management and working with people early on.

"Debbie was a very gracious student," said Jim Gray, former Southern business professor. "There wasn't an instructor on the floor who didn't like her. She had a great way of getting along with others."

Known as driven, Durham leaves an impression on those she encounters.

"Debbie was high-energy," said Robert Miller, former Southern business professor. "She was the type of person that lit up a room when she entered."

Durham, who describes herself as a workaholic, says it is not just her drive that has helped her succeed. She remembers her experience at Southern fondly.

"The education I received at Missouri Southern was such a quality, well-rounded education," said Durham. "It provided me with a solid foundation. I would recommend it to anyone."

— Rebecca Hartman, '11

A healthy focus

Alumna promotes wellness across the state of Missouri.



If all university graduates were required to love their profession, Susan Flowers, '04, would have no trouble accepting that responsibility.

Flowers, who found her niche teaching physical education to Joplin elementary students, works hard to grow in her profession and to improve elementary physical education across the state of Missouri.

In addition to teaching physical education classes at both Irving and Emerson elementaries, Flowers serves as the elementary physical education specialist for Joplin schools and is a senior high assistant track coach.

For Flowers, who attended Irving Elementary as a student, teaching younger students feels like being right at home.

"I definitely have a preference for elementary," said Flowers. "I just think that's what I'm best at and that's where I feel most comfortable."

Beyond the classroom, Flowers works with the Missouri Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Dr. Sheri Beeler, an associate professor of Missouri Southern's kinesiology department, first met Flowers when she enrolled in her kinesiology classes as a returning student.

In 2009, when Flowers was ready to become more involved with Missouri Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, the state of Missouri was also putting together a task force for activities and assessments through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Beeler, who was on the task force, nominated Flowers, who was selected.

In 2010, Flowers joined Beeler as part of the Quality Health and Physical Education Cadre.

"Across the state we do a series of presentations, professional development workshops, every spring," Beeler said.

"We meet in January, essentially to create that agenda, whatever's pertinent at that time in our state. She and I present at the Southwest Center in Webb City."

Hot-topic issues such as cyberbullying and texting while driving are also addressed during presentations.

Beeler describes Flowers' involvement with her profession as above and beyond the typical responsibilities of her job.

"She's so enthusiastic and so positive," Beeler said. "She's been a good role model for future professionals, for candidates in our program right now. But she's also a good role model for her own students she teaches every day."

Flowers didn't always want to work in physical education. When she first attended MSSU, she double majored in English and sociology.

"In fact, this is probably the last thing I would have thought I would be doing," she said.

Growing up, Flowers said she didn't consider herself an athlete, but she was always focused on physical activity, health and preventative care. She also danced and later owned a dance studio in Carthage, Missouri, where she gave lessons.

When Flowers returned to MSSU in 2001, she decided to focus on health and wellness. However, it was her adviser in the kinesiology department, Dr. Jean Hobbs, who helped her shift directions.

"We got to talking about what I was doing and she said, 'You know, I really think that you would be good at teaching,'" Flowers said.

Taking Hobbs' advice, Flowers tried a few physical education classes.

She was hooked immediately.

"I thought, 'This is what I've been doing my whole life. I just didn't know it. These are the types of things I've been working on,'" Flowers said.

After graduating from MSSU in 2004 with a degree in teacher education and an emphasis in physical education, Flowers went on to get her master's from Pittsburg State University. In January 2008, she was hired at Irving.

Seeing students achieve their goals and enjoying themselves is one of the rewarding aspects of Flowers' job, and developing a student-teacher bond is another part she enjoys.

While most of her students are enthusiastic about their activities, Flowers said a few occasionally need more encouragement. Flowers said she remembers how she once felt as a student in P.E. class.

"I didn't enjoy it at all," she said. "I didn't feel comfortable, so I kind of look at physical education classes from the point of view of someone who doesn't feel athletic or doesn't feel that they have the ability."

Flowers credits her teaching success to her experience as an MSSU student.

"I was very, very pleased with my education at Missouri Southern," she said.

"I had never been in a department that was so student-centered and encouraging as the kinesiology department. And then I went over to the education department, and I felt like I had very good support there as well."

Hobbs and Beeler were among those who had a lasting impact on Flowers. She was also influenced by Dr. Patsy Lipira, who held high standards for her students and kept Flowers focused; Assistant Professor Patricia Vavra, who prepared Flowers for the elementary experience; and former head baseball coach Warren Turner, who encouraged her while she student-taught and showed her the value of working with the community.

"I still stay in contact with a lot of them and feel like they were mentors to me," Flowers said. "I always think, 'What would they think, what would they tell me to do?'"

That line of thinking has proven useful to Flowers, who will likely continue to increase her level of involvement and expand in her profession.

"The reward for our department and our faculty is to see our graduates enjoy what they do and hear them say they know they made the right professional choice," Beeler said. **C**

— Emily Seigel, '11



Susan Flowers, '04, reviews notes as she works with the Joplin track and field team last spring. — Photos by Julie Lybarger, '11

Keeping focused after the storm

This story about Susan Flowers was written prior to the May 22 tornado, so the *Crossroads* staff checked in to see how things have been since then.

Today, Flowers is teaching at the temporary locations for Irving and Emerson elementary schools at the Washington Education Center and Duquesne Elementary School. She is also on the building committee for the new Irving, which will combine both Irving and Emerson elementary schools.

Flowers has done a great deal to ease the transition of her students to these temporary locations. She organized a group to paint the playgrounds at the temporary locations in order to make them more welcoming to the children. In addition, Flowers is starting a jump rope club at both locations.

"Our kids need what they've always needed but also something more. They need that sense of security that we're going to be there," Flowers said.

— Joanna Lee, '12



Lending a helping hand

MSSU takes part in Habitat for Humanity's 'Ten for Joplin' project.



The neighborhood that once surrounded Joplin High School is a harsh reminder of what happened on May 22. The barren land is scattered with tree limbs, small debris and the foundations of what once were homes. However, just west of the old high school, signs of new life can be found.

Volunteers, who worked through cold, rain, dust and strong winds, added 10 new homes to the neighborhood. The helpers came from as far away as The United Arab Emirates, and many were from Missouri Southern State University. They all took part in "Ten for Joplin," a special project organized by the Tulsa Habitat for Humanity.

"They approached Joplin Habitat and said, 'Hey, if you can get 10 pieces of land and 10 families, we'll come build — we'll bring the volunteers, we'll raise the funds, whatever we need to do to make this happen,' and it has happened," said Jamie Cox, volunteer director of the Tulsa Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that has been building homes for people in need since 1976. After the tornado, Tulsa Habitat for Humanity knew it wanted to take part in a large-scale project to help the housing needs in Joplin.

"Ten for Joplin" included homes for 10 families in need. Nine of the 10 families

were directly impacted by the storm, most having completely lost their homes. One family lost a mother and wife.

The project ran October 29 through November 13, 2011.

Southern officials contacted Habitat after the announcement of the project and selected two days to be volunteer days for faculty, staff and students. After requests from Staff Senate, the administration approved 80 additional hours of vacation time to be used for volunteer work on projects to help after the tornado.

"Not only are faculty happy to help with MSSU-sanctioned days like our day at Habitat, but that the vast majority have given



Facing page, a wooden star from the “Stars of Hope” event held at Missouri Southern on September 9 and 10, 2011, stands on a curb on Kentucky Avenue, where several of the Habitat homes are located. Above left, Southern volunteers work on the porch of one of the “Ten for Joplin” homes. Above, Jim Werberger, Southern custodian, saws trim for one of the project’s homes. Left, Dr. Sherry Buchanan (right), chair of the Southern Board of Governors, and a volunteer with Tulsa Habitat for Humanity shovel rocks to prepare a lawn for landscaping in a neighborhood near the destroyed Joplin High School on November 1, 2011. — Photos by Kisa Clark, ’11

time and resources on their own time and of their own volition,” said Dr. Elaine Freeman, professor of teacher education. “What is really incredible is that even people from Missouri Southern who lost their homes in the storm are out working and volunteering with Habitat, like Kyle Vann, ’02, who lived on Grand and lost his home.”

Another MSSU family member who lost everything in the storm and came out to volunteer was Stephanie Goad, ’97, adviser for international students.

“We had so many volunteers come out and help us, people we didn’t even know — people from other states were there helping — a lot of our family and friends were

there, and that meant everything to us,” Goad said. “So I was excited when the opportunity came up to be able to be a part of this because just giving back seems like the right thing to do and was something that I felt compelled in my heart to do.”

Dr. Sherry Buchanan, chair of the Southern Board of Governors, also volunteered.

“It’s the heart, that’s what Southern is all about, and I think we’ve seen it in so many ways since May 22,” Buchanan said. “And it’s one more way to say we care and we have things to contribute, and we’re going to continue to work with this community to get it back.”

One faculty member contributed to the

Habitat for Humanity project in a big way.

Leslie Parker, professor of Spanish, lost her home on May 22. After clearing what remained of her home at 2290 Kentucky Avenue, Parker knew she wanted to donate her lot. It was not a hard decision for her to give to Habitat’s cause.

“I almost immediately said yes; I didn’t really have to think about it,” Parker said. “I didn’t even talk to anyone about it because I knew what Habitat would do with it. I knew they would build a house, and I knew they would build it sooner rather than later because of all the people involved.” **C**

— Kisa Clark, ’11

Taking it to the EXTREME

Community unites to build seven Joplin homes for series finale.

Organizations from Missouri Southern had the opportunity to help with the popular TV series “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” that filmed in October in Joplin.

The show took on its biggest project for the series finale: building seven homes in just one short week. Three of those homes went to alumni families.

More than 10,000 volunteers, including students from Southern, helped with the effort. Students from the Campus Activities Board, Baptist Student Union, Public Relations Student Society of America, and the softball, baseball, and women’s basketball teams volunteered for this project.

“When you get a lot of people involved in one project, nothing is impossible,” said Katie Rodick, sophomore education major and a BSU intern.

The BSU provided food for producers and the show’s crew and recruited workers to help with food preparation.

“I think the more Southern is involved in the community, the more pride we’ll feel as a campus,” said Jon Smith, BSU director. “It was neat for us.”

Smith went to the CAB office to recruit students to help fill holes.

PRSSA members helped in the volunteer tent and did landscaping work for two of the seven houses.

Did you miss it?

The Joplin episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” aired on January 13, 2012. You can see the show by going to www.abc.go.com/shows/extreme-makeover-home-edition and clicking on Joplin Families. The show was the 200th and final episode for the series.

“With so many people wanting to volunteer, we were lucky to get a chance,” said Chelsea Jones, senior theatre and communication major.

Jones, president of the PRSSA, said the experience was incredible and worth the hard work and time.

“It was really cool to be able to point to something and say, ‘Hey I did that!’ It wasn’t about getting on camera,” Jones said. “It was about doing something.”

Smith and Jones hope this will lead to Southern having a stronger presence within the community, translating that feeling of community over to the campus.

“I think as a university, we definitely need a stronger sense of pride in our school. Southern needs to be involved in the community,” Smith said.

“Smart Mob” was another group orga-

nized by Southern to help with the effort. Smart Mob prepared 2,500 emergency kits with help from about 200 students, faculty, staff and alumni. The kits were later distributed to Joplin residents so they could be prepared in the event of another natural disaster.

“We were extremely proud to be part of this effort to help members of our community,” said JoAnn Graffam, ’87, vice president for development and executive director of the Missouri Southern Foundation. “It was humbling to see the hundreds of MSSU students, faculty and staff give their time to join in this effort for the sake of others.”

Diane Korman, senior producer for the show, said the project wasn’t just about helping the specific families who received homes, but bringing the community together.

“I think all the folks in Joplin are wondering how they could help,” she said. “It’s just something that’s a miracle.”

Giving hope back to the community has been a main focus for the Missouri Southern family.

“I think that, as much as we can give hope to the community and help be involved in the rebuild, it’ll help close that chapter,” said University President Bruce Speck. **E**

— Lakin Adams, ’12



Above left, Tom, '05, and Emily Walters and their daughter, Chloe, show their excitement after seeing their new home for the first time. Above center, Kyle Howard, '07, a Joplin firefighter, stands with his wife, Jill, their children, and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" host Ty Pennington as they wait to see their new home. Above right, Justin, '04, and Kari, '06, Nevins and their children greet the crowd of volunteers and citizens who came to view the houses as they were revealed in October. Right, the buses arrive with the families who received homes. About 13,000 volunteers built the homes in just seven days.

This was the 200th and final episode of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"

— Photos by Aaron DuRall, '11





Above left, volunteers stack up boxes of emergency kits. The kits were put together by a "Smart Mob" of Missouri Southern faculty, staff, students and alumni in the week in October when the homes were built. Above center, Nathan Hicks, '11, (left) and other volunteers pass out the familiar "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" T-shirts to "Smart Mob" members. Above right, a videographer for the "Extreme" crew films volunteers in the Lions' Den before they headed to the Billingsly Student Center Ballroom to work on the emergency kits. Left, series host Ty Pennington revs up the crowd before the new homes are revealed to the families. — Photos by Rhonda Clark, '00, and Aaron DuRall, '11

Making a difference

Business class encourages teamwork and social responsibility.

For business students at Missouri Southern, Dr. Nanette Philibert's Organizational Behavior class is a unique way to learn how to work as a team and give back to the community.

Each semester, students in the class work to create some type of community service project.

Since the students are from various majors, they work in small groups and designate different responsibilities within the group.

Some work on publicity, others serve as project managers, and some work on labor logistics collection.

"You learn how to deal with different personalities within an organization," said Rhonda Lawrence, '11, who took the class in the spring of 2011. "You learn about the cultures of other countries, things you need to change, and ways to motivate individuals."

Last spring, due to a large class size, there were two class projects. The first was an initiative for Botswana, in which the group collected items to send to missionaries hoping to start an orphanage there.

The second project was the MO-KAN Alliance, a project to collect donations for no-kill animal shelters in Missouri and Kansas.

Philibert said a huge part of the class is learning from experience instead of from a textbook. Sometimes, Philibert has a hard time letting students take on the project without a lot of guidance from her.

"I have to sit on my hands and not get involved because it's their project," said Philibert.

Regardless, the students have never let her down. In the past, classes have worked on projects with the Carthage Crisis Center, Threads of Hope, and Haven of the Ozarks.



Above left, Dr. Beverly Block, interim dean of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration, looks at items sold at the Mission Market. Top right, Dr. Nanette Philibert and Kristen Swadley, '11, work the table at the market. Above right, students organize items at the Mission Market held at Missouri Southern. — Photos by Julie Lybarger, '11



Other projects have involved raising money to renovate the memorial gardens on campus and creating a venue for both international and local charities with Mission Market.

"This project has taught me the importance of demonstrating civic responsibility and how my efforts impact the community and world," said Marchella Claar, '11, who also took the class in spring 2010.

"Dr. Philibert does an excellent job of teaching students the value of social responsibility."

For some students, a project doesn't end with the class.

"I've had students get jobs because they listed these projects on their resumes," said Philibert.

Erik Wright, '10, helped his class renovate the memorial garden at Missouri Southern and is now helping to develop a community garden in Joplin.

"The memorial garden project was a catalyst for promoting and developing the community garden program in Joplin," said Wright.

"I am a huge supporter of this concept and actually came back last year and participated in the fall project. Corporate social responsibility projects are becoming essential to the survival of business in the 21st century."

Philibert uses her organizational behavior class to give students opportunities and experiences they would never have if they stayed inside a classroom. **C**

— Joanna Lee, '12

Hooray for HOLLYWOOD



Lions roar at Homecoming 2011 — Tinsel Town style.

Each year, Homecoming is a great time for alumni and friends to gather on campus to celebrate memories of years gone by. This year was no exception. And perhaps, due to the May 22 tornado, our 2011 event brought a new sense of joy, reconnecting and a time for celebration.

This year's theme, Homecoming in Hollywood 2011, brought out the stars for the week. Events on campus throughout the week for students included a casino night, comedy night and a concert.

Alumni and friends gathered at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center on Friday evening to recognize Outstanding Alumna Betsy Banks, '91, and Lion-

Hearted recipient Larry Hickey, as well as Hall of Fame inductees Jim Phillips; Tina Montez, '99; Ron Burton, '94; and Tomi Olavi Paalanen, '01.

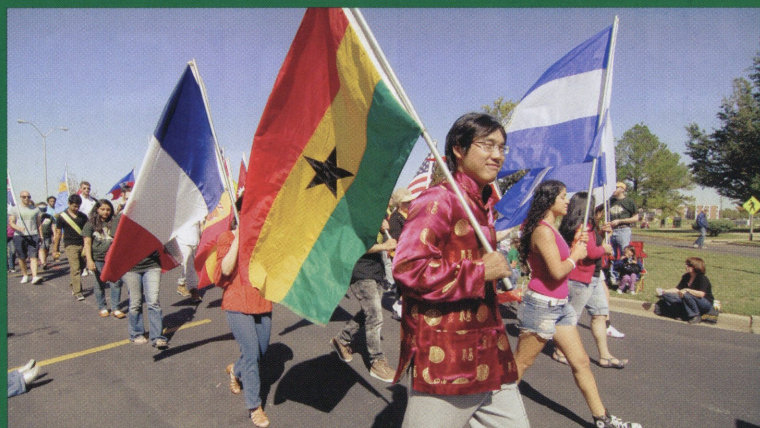
The traditional parade on campus featured student floats with a variety of Lady Gagas, "Wizard of Oz" characters and even an Oscar statuette.

As always, Missouri Southern pro-

vided a great day filled with family fun at pregame tailgating with inflatables, face painting and a mass band performance.

We invite you to mark your calendars now for the week of October 1 through October 6 to celebrate Homecoming and the many 75th anniversary events surrounding that special week. **C**

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86



Facing page left, cheerleader Airica Baker talks to fans. Facing page right, members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority show off their float. Left, tuba player John Franz marches during the parade. Top, color guard member Emily Forstrum twirls her flag. Above, Owen Zhang walks with other international students in the parade. — Photos by Mike Gullett

2011 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

Betsy Banks received her bachelor's degree in biology from Missouri Southern and worked as a park ranger at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska and as a field scientist for the Army Corps of Engineers in South Carolina.



Betsy Banks, '91

She received her master's in forest ecology, specializing in groundwater hydrology, at Clemson University and then worked as an urban forester for the State of New Jersey and as an agriculture extension agent at Rutgers.

In 1996, Banks launched **Petfinder.com**, listing pets from 13 shelters. It was revolutionary for homeless pets:

It gave them a voice heard around the world. Site visitors could search for pets to adopt from the comfort of their own homes.

Today, more than 13,500 shelters and rescue groups post their pets on Petfinder, which has been responsible for finding homes for more than 17 million pets. Since Petfinder began, the number of adoptable pets being euthanized has dropped from about 16 million to an estimated 4 million.

With 5 million unique visitors each month and about 2 million adoptions annually, it's the No. 1 most viewed site on the Web in the Pets and Animals category.

In 2006, Discovery Communications acquired **Petfinder.com** in what *Ad Age* magazine called one of the "best (and

sweetest) acquisitions of the year."

Betsy continues to serve Petfinder, focusing on strategy, partnerships and public relations.

She also serves on the boards of the Petfinder.com Foundation, the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs, and Asparity Decision Solutions, a leading provider of health care and employee benefits decision support and data solutions.

In 2010, she was named by *Woman's Day* magazine as one of 50 "Women Who Are Changing the World."

Betsy lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with her husband, Ed Powers, two children, two dogs, a cat, two guinea pigs, two elderly horses, three cows, a flock of chickens, a sheep, two goats and a box turtle.



Left, Carmen Speck (left) and University President Bruce Speck (right) congratulate Homecoming King and Queen Jeremy Thomas and Samantha Evans at the coronation ceremony on October 1 at Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

Below left, Vanessa Jenkins and other members of the Lion Pride band play during the halftime show.

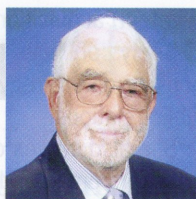
Below right, a young Lion fan has her face painted before the game.

— Photos by Mike Gullett



2011 LION-HEARTED

Larry Hickey, former Joplin mayor, grew up in Coffeyville, Kansas, and graduated from the University of Kansas.



Larry Hickey

His time at KU was interrupted by World War II. During the war, he served as an officer in the United States Navy, taking part in the Battle of Okinawa. He was assigned to participate in the planned invasion of Japan. However, the invasion never took place as a result of the Japanese surrender.

Hickey left the Navy in 1946 and within one week of his discharge, he started working for Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

He moved to Joplin in the mid 1950s as a distributor for Phillips.

In 1974, Hickey became the Anheuser-Busch distributor for the area as owner of the Larry Hickey Distributing Company.

He was also a city council member and mayor of Joplin.

Over the years, Hickey and his late wife, Virginia, became strong supporters of the community and of Missouri Southern.

Hickey took a German class at Southern while serving on the Board of FAG Bearing. Through that class, he met Hal Bodon, the German-born language professor who also served as the men's soccer coach. That relationship turned into Hickey sponsoring a trip for the soccer team.

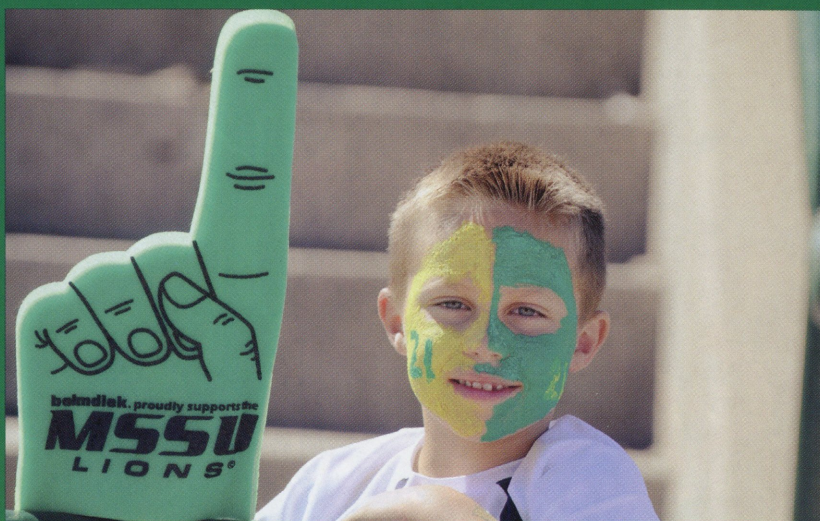
Hickey has donated to scholarships and to the creation of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

He has been a supporter of the baseball program and the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.

From 2003 to 2006, Hickey served as honorary chair of Missouri Southern's Building a University for the 21st Century capital campaign that raised more than \$10 million for the institution.

Today, Hickey sits on the Baseball Advisory Board of Missouri Southern State University and maintains an active interest in the city of Joplin, the Museum Complex and Missouri Southern.

The Lion-Hearted Award recognizes non-Missouri Southern graduates who are outstanding supporters of MSSU.



Above, junior wide receiver Ne'Ronte Threatt makes a run during the Homecoming game.

Above right, students cheer on the Lions during the game.

Right, a young fan shows off his Lion pride.

— Photos by Mike Gullett

2011 HALL OF FAME

Ron Burton, Football (1990-93): Part of the 1993 MIAA championship team, when it went 9-1-1 and advanced to the NCAA playoffs. A co-captain, he was a first-team All-American by the sports information directors and was a second-team pick by the *Football Gazette*, and a third-team pick by the Associated Press. He holds the Southern record for most tackles in a game (21) and in a career (416). He graduated in 1994 with a degree in criminal justice and is a specialist in the U.S. Army at Fort Richardson in Alaska. He is an X-ray technician and was deployed to Afghanistan in December. He and his wife, Bili, have three children.

Coach Jim Phillips, Women's Basketball (1981-88): The second-winningest coach in Lion women's basketball history, his career mark of 129-72 from 1981-88, served as the most wins in Southern history until

Maryann Mitts broke the record in 2008-09. His 1985-86 team went 25-7, tied for the second-highest total wins in a women's basketball season at Southern. He earned a bachelor's in English from Austin Peay and a master's in education from Utah State University. He earned a doctorate in health, physical education and recreation from Middle Tennessee State University. He and his wife, Ann, have two daughters.

Tina (Keller) Montez, Women's Track and Field (1995-98): A four-year letter winner for the women's team, she qualified for the 1998 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in three different events (100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles and the 4x100-meter relay), and earned All-American status in the relay and 400 hurdles. She graduated in 1999 with a degree in environmental science and is

employed by the Empire District Electric Company. She and her husband, Manuel Montez, have four children.

Tomi Paalanen, Men's Track and Field (1998-01): A four-time NCAA Division II outdoor track and field All-American in the javelin in his career at Southern. He was a three-time MIAA champion in the event and earned MIAA Athlete of the Week six times. Paalanen holds the second-best javelin performance in the history of Southern at 215 feet, 1 inch. He graduated with a degree in kinesiology and earned a master's in physical education from the University of Jyväskylä (Finland). He serves as a senior lecturer at Haaga-Helia University in Finland. He has one child, Minea.

The MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame now includes 97 members and two teams.

One State

Lions and Tigers face off to show their support for Joplin.



Stepping onto their own court to tipoff against a top 25 Division I team held a lot of meaning for the Missouri Southern men's basketball team. The One State One Spirit Classic Presented by Leggett & Platt against the University of Missouri was not just for the Lions but also for the place many on the team call home — Joplin.

For a cause that has attracted big name newscasters and shows such as "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" all the way to volunteers who were willing to give money and time to help, the feeling was mutual for the visiting team.

"To see a new coach be excited about this game for the cause, and having no previous affiliations with Joplin or Missouri, says a lot about how we felt as a team," said Mizzou senior guard Kim English.

English and fellow teammate senior guard Marcus Denmon kept answers not relating to the tornado to a minimum at a

pregame press conference.

Many Mizzou players and their coaches were in Joplin just a few days after the tornado and understood the devastation that had struck the town. Then, just five months later, the team was in high spirits to see the progress Joplin had made.

"It was great to see, but it is still a long ways away," said Mizzou head coach Frank Haith.

Every seat in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center was sold out for the exhibition game on October 30, as were 50 courtside seats, which went for \$500 each.

The game also had a national focus, as ESPN arrived on campus to televise the Lions-Tigers matchup on ESPN2.

"By having the game on national television, it brought a lot of attention to Joplin, and all of this would not have been possible without the efforts of coach Haith and the University of Missouri," said MSSU head coach Robert Corn, '78.

Southern senior Jason Adams recovered from back surgery just in time to play in the exhibition game.

"I have lived here in the area for most of my life," said Adams, who thought that not playing would feel like he was letting his hometown down.

In the end, Mizzou would win the Classic, 114-68, but that did not stop the two teams from giving hugs, handshakes and high fives after the game. This was an event to celebrate, regardless of the final point spread.

For Corn, the game was about so much more than winning or losing — it was a major event for a community that was beginning to heal.

"I will forever be grateful to coach Haith and the University of Missouri for coming to MSSU and Joplin's aid during a time when we needed help," Corn said. **C**

— Sam Pogue, '13

One Spirit *Classic*



Above, Dana O'Neil of ESPN interviews Jason Adams. Below, head coach Robert Corn, '78, talks strategy. Right, Lion Jordan Talbert attempts to block a shot by MU's Ricardo Ratliffe. — Photos by Mike Gullett



The One
State One
Spirit Classic
Presented

DID YOU KNOW?

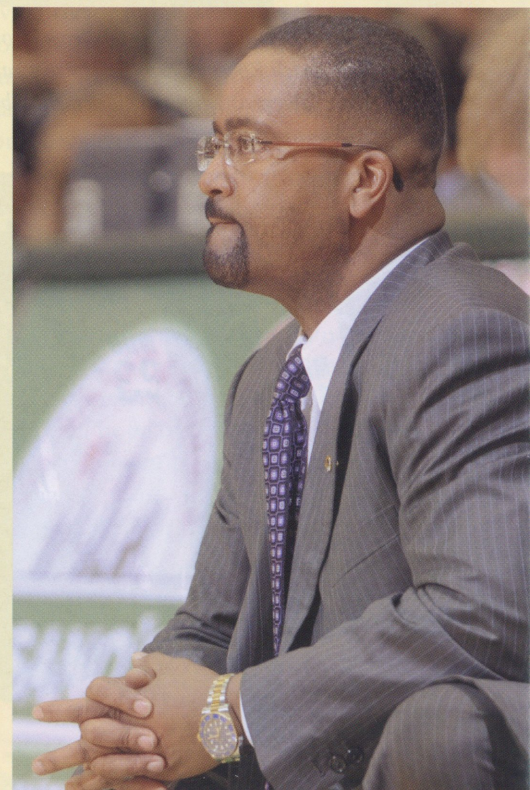
by Leggett & Platt raised more than \$100,000 for MSSU's Tornado Relief Fund for employees and students, scholarships for current students impacted by the May 22 tornado, and to set up an endowed scholarship for students in the Joplin area.

Mizzou presented a check for \$250,000 to the United Way United for Joplin. The money was raised from sales of the One State/One Spirit T-shirts.

Top right, the MSSU band dons their net hats as they play for the fans. Right, (from left) Mike Middleton, MU deputy chancellor; Warren Erdman, MU president of Curators; Mike Alden, MU Director of Athletics; Jay Nixon, Missouri Governor; Jared Bruggeman, MSSU Athletic Director; Sherry Buchanan, chair of the MSSU Board of Governors; and Dr. Bruce Speck, university president, applaud during the awards ceremony prior to the game. Below left, Leggett & Platt Athletic Center holds a sold-out crowd for the One State One Spirit Classic Presented by Leggett & Platt between Missouri Southern and Mizzou on October 30, 2011. Below right, Tigers head coach Frank Haith was instrumental in organizing the exhibition game. — Photos by Mike Gullett



One State One Spirit One State One Spirit One State





Answering the call

Head coach Alese Woolard, '05, led the Lions to play for the championship in the MIAA Postseason Soccer Tournament.

— Photo by Aaron DuRall, '11

Former assistant coach makes the right move for the Lions.

Alese Woolard, '05, just finished her second season as head coach for the Lions soccer team, and what a season it was.

A slow start didn't deter the head coach, as the Lions shook off an early 0-7-1 record and won nine of their last 12 games. Southern would go on to play for the championship in the MIAA Postseason Soccer Tournament, where the Lions lost to the No. 8-ranked Jennies of Central Missouri, 3-2.

With so much success in such a short time, it's hard to believe that Woolard almost didn't land the head coach job.

After head coach Trevor Wachsman announced his resignation in July 2010, the search for a new coach was top priority, but finding a coach during the summer and on such a short time frame was not easy.

"Coming into preseason not knowing what would happen to our program was stressful for all of us" said senior Megan Stueve.

While sitting in her living room that summer, Woolard heard her phone ring. Recognizing the number from the athletic department at Missouri Southern, she already knew the context of the conversation.

Woolard answered to find that she had not received the head soccer coach position. The four-year Lion assistant soccer coach's pride had taken a beating.

Regardless, she was humble and optimistic. With no desire to continue as an assistant coach, Woolard accepted a teaching job at Neosho (Missouri) High School.

As the summer went by, Woolard prepared herself for her new job at Neosho. But just five days out of preseason, she received another phone call from the athletics office at Southern.

The coach who had originally been hired to replace Wachsman had backed out at the last minute. The position was now being offered to Woolard. In shock, she did not accept right away.

"I needed some time to think about it," said Woolard.

She was torn between fulfilling her commitment to the Neosho School District or taking a head coaching job — a job she had already been eliminated from.

"I made a lot of phone calls to family and friends, looking for advice," said Woolard.

Everyone she spoke with agreed that she needed to accept the coaching position. She knew deep down that was where she wanted and needed to be.

After a restless night and an early morning, Woolard accepted the position.

The former Lion player and veteran coach understands how the program works at Southern.

"She knows all of us as players as well as people, which I think is really important for a coach," said Stueve.

And that familiarity transferred into a successful Lions season. **C**

— Sam Pogue, '13



LIONS & BEARS



Missouri Southern faces its second Division I rival with pride.



Green, gold and maroon fill Leggett & Platt Athletic Center as the Lions play the MSU Bears on November 5, 2011. — Photo by Mike Gullett

Six days after playing Division I Miz-zou, Missouri Southern basketball teams were up against another Division I rival: Missouri State University.

The games took place on November 5, 2011 as a fundraiser for the Missouri Southern Foundation Tornado Relief Fund. The event raised nearly \$50,000 and attracted almost 3,000 fans.

"Knowing that it was the second such event we had in six days and we still had that much support from the community let us know how the community felt," said Kevin Greim, associate athletic director for external operations at Southern.

After hearing about the devastation of the May 22 tornado, Missouri State wanted to do what it could to help Joplin.

"We were very excited that MSU agreed to play a game here in Joplin. Paul Lusk (MSU men's head coach) was my assistant here at Joplin, so when the tornado happened, he wanted to know what he could

do to help," said Robert Corn, '78, MSSU head coach.

The universities got together and decided to promote a doubleheader event. Wendy's, who was working on renewing its yearly contract with Southern, asked if there was anything else it could do.

Greim asked if Wendy's would be interested in hosting the Missouri State versus Missouri Southern game, and that's how the "I-44 Hoops Classic Presented by Wendy's" games began.

"The game with Missouri State signifies just another example of the outpouring of support from people outside the Joplin community," said Maryann Mitts, women's head coach.

For Mitts, this event held great meaning for the athletic department.

"The game in itself was the epitome of what college athletics should represent," said Mitts. "Our program was honored to compete on the floor that evening. It was a

way for us to be able to show our commitment to the tornado relief effort."

Greim also mentioned the support of the American Red Cross for the event.

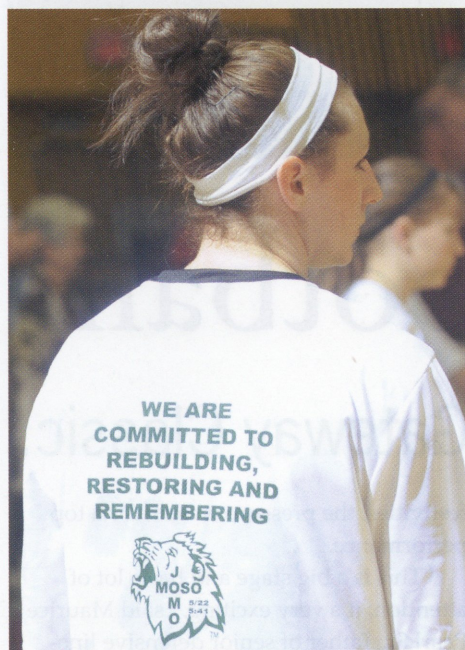
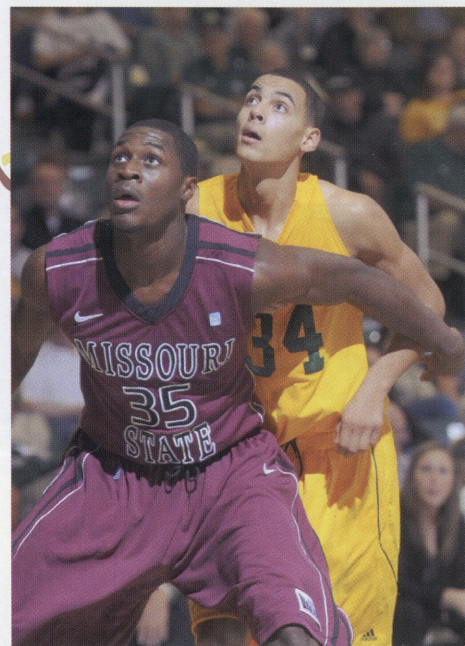
"Red Cross is just one shining example of how much an organization can do, and we were honored to have them there," he said.

Southern sends a special thanks out to Kyle Moats, director of athletics for Missouri State, and Missouri State basketball coaches Nyla Milleeson and Paul Lusk for allowing the event to happen and bringing their teams.

In the end, both Missouri State teams won: the men 84-48, and the women 91-58. Regardless, the game was about more than winning or losing for the Southern teams.

"It was a great experience for our players to play against a good D-I team, and it will be something they can talk about for a long time," said Corn. **G**

— Joanna Lee, '12



Top left, John Fisher, a senior and member of the Sound Dimension show choir at Joplin High School, sings the national anthem before the game between Missouri Southern and Missouri State University on November 5, 2011, in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Top right, Lion sophomore guard Marquis Addison battles for a rebound with MSU junior forward Corbin Thomas. Above left, sophomore guard Shatara Stone watches the men's game. Above right, MSU men's head coach and former Southern assistant coach Paul Lusk follows the action during the men's game. — Photos by Mike Gullett



Ready for some football?

Lions play like the pros in win at the Gateway Classic.

For most of Missouri Southern's football team, playing in a 66,000-seat stadium was something they had only seen on television. On September 24, 2011, the Lions suited up for a game in the Edward Jones Dome, home of the NFL's St. Louis Rams.

"The main thing for me is that we have a lot of athletes from this area, and for them to come home and be a part of this event is fantastic," said Athletic Director Jared Bruggeman.

The game, which pitted Southern against Lincoln University, was also a fundraiser for the Gateway Classic Foundation.

With a slogan of "It's not just a football game, it's a way of life," the foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance through scholarship and sports programs.

Since 1994, the foundation has collected more than \$2.8 million in scholarships for 108 students. The scholarships can cover up to full tuition and room and board as long as the student maintains a C+ average or higher.

The day kicked off full throttle with a parade featuring marching bands from four universities: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Lincoln University, Clark Atlanta University, and Missouri Southern. Along with the marching bands were floats and local marching bands from high schools, middle schools and other local talent.

The matchup was the first between Southern and Lincoln since the Blue Tigers reentered the MIAA the year before.

With many parents and Lion fans traveling to St. Louis for the weekend

festivities, the pressure was on for a top performance.

"This is a big stage and has a lot of attention; it's very exciting," said Maurice Pearl Sr., father of senior defensive lineman, Maurice Pearl.

The Lions were off to a fast start with a 28-7 lead going into halftime.

During the halftime show, Southern and Lincoln played a "Battle of the Bands." Both marching bands entered center field for a musical standoff.

In the second half, Southern scored 28 points to defeat the Blue Tigers, 56-14. Senior quarterback Collin Howard was awarded Most Valuable Player.

"It was a great experience for everyone, and it was a great game," said senior wide receiver Landon Zerkel. **G**

— Sam Pogue, '13



Facing page, participants and fans begin to fill the Edward Jones Dome before the game between Missouri Southern and Lincoln University. Above, young fans greet the Lions mascot September 24 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Above right, the Southern marching band plays during the pregame parade in St. Louis. Right, freshman running back Damion Willis fights a tackle by Lincoln defenders. Below right, (left to right) Lions Steven Sumpter, Brandon Williams, Richard Williams and Ian Saxton display the Gateway Classic trophy. Below left, senior wide receiver Landon Zerkel watches as his teammates take on the Blue Tigers.

— Photos by Willie Brown, '14, and Sam Pogue, '13





Left, senior Lisa Vengels was second in high jump, which earned her All-MIAA honors. Center, junior John Lowe also picked up All-MIAA honors with his performance in pole vault. Right, senior pitcher Brett Abell led the team with an 8-6 record on the mound.

— Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus

It's a wrap ...

Solid finishes mark spring 2011 seasons.

Baseball

The team narrowly missed making the MIAA Tournament for the third-straight time under coach Bryce Darnell as the Lions finished a half a game out of the final spot in the postseason tournament. The Lions finished the season 24-26 overall and 20-24 in the MIAA.

Southern had six players named All-MIAA as Dallas Burke was named a first-team All-MIAA utility player. Burke played at both the catcher and outfield spot for the Lions, while also serving as a designated hitter at other times throughout the year. He ranked fourth in the MIAA with a .392 average and led the team with 60 hits.

Jesse Kinzey and Dane Kolkmeier were named second-team All-MIAA at the first and second base positions. Kinzey was tied for a team-high five home runs, while leading the Lions with 37 RBIs. Kolkmeier finished the season with a .386 batting average, ranking sixth in the MIAA. He finished the year with 59 hits and was tied for third with 32 RBIs.

Pitchers Brett Abell and Cody Griebing, as well as right fielder Patrick Deao, picked up honorable mention honors. Abell led the team with an 8-6 record on the mound and ranked second in the MIAA in strikeouts, while Griebing was 7-5 and proved to be the Lions top starter

down the stretch. Deao led the Lions with eight outfield assists this year and was tied for the team lead with five home runs and 60 hits.

Men's & Women's Track and Field

The men's and women's teams had another successful outdoor season that saw three men and two women earn All-MIAA status (top three place finishers in each event).

On the men's side, Corey Reynolds was the MIAA Champion in the pole vault, and John Lowe also picked up All-MIAA honors in the vault. Aki Nummela was second in the 5k to earn All-MIAA

honors. The men placed seventh in the final team standings.

On the women's side, Lisa Vengels was second in the high jump and picked up All-MIAA honors, while Carita Riutta placed third in the 800-meter and was named an All-MIAA athlete, as well. The women placed fifth in the final team standings.

The women and men both qualified five individuals altogether for the 2011 NCAA Division II National Championships as Michael Juergens, Nummela and Reynolds made trips to California, while Vengels and Nicole Green made return trips to nationals.

Golf

The team had another solid season on the links this year as the Lions finished the fall and spring seasons in third place after the final MIAA points standings were announced in May. The Lions had All-MIAA representation from both Andy Hogenmiller and Jamie Voegeli as the pair finished ninth and tenth, respectively, in the final MIAA Individual Points standings.

Hogenmiller qualified as an individual to the 2011 NCAA Division II Regional Golf Tournament, where he placed 45th in a field of more than 100 golfers.

Softball

The squad experienced its best season in 10 years, going 32-22 on the season, winning 30-plus games for the first time since the early 2000s. The Lions logged a win over the only ranked team they faced in

Left, junior Dawn Grass led the Lions in home runs with nine. Center, senior Brooke Hurley finished the season with a career-high batting average of .301 and started 34 of 39 games for the Lions. Right, senior Andy Hogenmiller qualified for the 2011 NCAA Division-II Regional Golf Tournament. — Photos by Mike Gullett and Justin Maskus



2011, when on April 22, Southern defeated then-14th ranked Emporia State 4-0 to salvage a split in Emporia, Kansas.

Junior pitcher Nicole Reed, a junior college recruit from California, won 25 games. It was the first time a Lion pitcher has

won 20-plus games since Hailey (Stanley) Burpo in 2004. Reed also set a new MSSU record for strikeouts in a season with 225.

For the second straight year, Southern qualified for the MIAA Postseason Tournament.

As the fourth seed, the Lions pushed first seed Missouri Western to the bottom of the ninth in a winner's bracket semifinal before falling, 7-6.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information & Shaun Buck, '11, Sports Information Assistant



Lions notebook

Three Lions receive honors for Don Hansen's All-America team

Football Lions Brandon Williams, Landon Zerkel and Kenny Smith were named to Don Hansen's All-America team, while Williams was also named to the **d2football.com** All-America team.

Williams was a first-team pick to both Don Hansen's list and the **d2football.com** list. Zerkel was a third-team pick on Hansen's list, while Smith was an honorable mention.

Williams was a unanimous first-team All-MIAA pick after being named a preseason All-American.

Zerkel earned his first All-American nod after being named a first-team All-MIAA pick this year, finishing the season as the MIAA leader in receptions per game and in receiving yards per game.

Smith was one of the best interior linemen in the MIAA, as well as all of Division II this season. He was sixth in the MIAA in sacks per game and ranked fifth in the MIAA in tackles for a loss. He helped the Lions tie a school record with nine sacks in a single game earlier in the season.

Daye returns to Southern as head football coach for 2012

Former Missouri Southern defensive coordinator Daryl Daye was named the 11th head football coach in Southern history. Daye was assistant to the head coach for the NFL's Buffalo Bills. His first official day at MSSU was January 2.

"I'm ecstatic about the opportunity to get back to the Joplin area and for my wife and me to make it our home," Daye said. "I'm looking forward to coming back and working at a quality university for quality individuals."

Prior to making the move to the NFL, Daye spent four seasons as the Lions' defensive coordinator where he helped orchestrate one of the MIAA's top defenses. His 2008 unit led the MIAA in pass defense, holding opponents to 172 passing yards per game, while recording 58 tackles for a loss, 15 sacks and recovering all 15 fumbles the team forced.

In 2007, Daye's defense led the MIAA in total defense for the first time in school history. That season, the Lions led the MIAA in pass defense, opponents' first downs (fewest), passing efficiency and were ranked second in opponents third and fourth down conversion rates.

The Lions' defense was ranked 21st nationally in total defense and also broke a 17-year old school record with 21 interceptions (while a Division II school).

Prior to Missouri Southern, Daye was special teams coach for Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 2005. Daye previously served as head coach at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, from 1999-2003.

Lion one of two D-II players named to Good Works Team

Junior wide receiver Kellen Cox was honored at halftime of the 2012 Allstate Sugar Bowl as part of the AFCA / Allstate Good Works Team.

A program record 132 players were nominated for the award this past summer. From the nominations, a special voting panel, including former Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® members and current college football broadcasters, selected 22 players from across the country to the team. Of the two 11-member teams, one comprises

players competing in the NCAA® Football Bowl Subdivision and the other is a combined team representing the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision, Divisions II, III, and the NAIA.

Cox joined Carson-Newman's Byron Bell as one of just two Division II football players on the team. Cox is a captain on the Lion football squad and is president of the MSSU chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He carries a 3.75 GPA in physical education at Missouri Southern, and has served on various mission trips to Nicaragua, Maine, Mexico, Chicago, New York, Alabama and Tanzania.

Stay connected with the Lions via email, text, FB or Twitter

MSSU Athletics has several ways to keep you updated. An email database sends information on upcoming events, games and other Lion news. To sign up for these email blasts, visit the athletics website by going online to **www.mssulions.com** and click on "Lions Email Alerts" at the bottom of the page.

A texting database sends game updates, results and other breaking news. To register for these text updates, click on "Lions Text Alerts," also at the bottom of the Web page.

You can also follow the Lions on Facebook by searching "Missouri Southern Lions Athletics" or on Twitter @mososports.

If you have other suggestions for keeping fans updated on all things Missouri Southern Athletics, please send an email to **greim-k@mssu.edu** to reach Kevin Greim.

— From staff reports

Lions reserve the best for last as they play in Kansas City for MIAA title

After starting the season 0-7-1, the Lion soccer team won nine of its last 12 games to finish third in the MIAA regular season. The Lions found their way to the championship game of the first MIAA Postseason Soccer Tournament, held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The season's turnaround started October 2, when the Lions went to Emporia State University and came away with a 2-1 victory. Southern would win its next two matches by the same score, taking a double overtime decision at Southwest Baptist University and defeating the newest program in the MIAA, Fort Hays State, at home.

The Lions added two more victories to tie the school record for most consecutive conference wins at five, when they defeated Washburn in Topeka, Kansas, and shut out Missouri Western.

Following those wins, the Lions dropped a second overtime decision to Truman State and fell to 10th ranked Central Missouri in Warrensburg. Southern closed the season with a 2-1 double overtime victory over Northwest Missouri — clinching third place in the regular season and third seed in the MIAA Postseason Tournament — and a 3-1 victory over future MIAA member Lindenwood on Senior Day.

In the MIAA Postseason Tournament, the Lions defeated sixth seed Southwest Baptist in the 88th minute on a goal by sophomore defender Dana Wilhelm. With that win, the Lions were poised to take on the No. 2 seed Truman State Bulldogs, who had beaten Southern twice this season, both in overtime. The Lions were down early in the 24th minute as the Bulldogs struck first, before Southern found the back of the net in the final seconds as junior forward Megan Stueve connected on a pass from junior defender Corinne Tebbs to send the game into overtime.

This time, the Lions would exact revenge, as senior midfielder Shannon Kuhn connected on a Tebbs' corner kick to advance the Lions to the MIAA Postseason Tournament Championship against eighth-ranked Central Missouri.

The Lions fell behind late in the first half as the Jennies scored in the 42nd minute. Sophomore forward Kelly White scored the lone Lion goal in the second half to even up the score, but Central would prove too much as it scored twice more for the win.

For the season, Tebbs was named to the second team All-MIAA while Stueve and senior midfielder Michelle Dimza earned honorable mention honors.

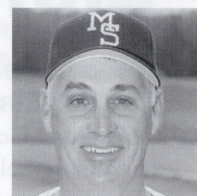
— Shaun Buck, '11, Sports Information Assistant

Southern loses alumnus, players

Former player, coach and Hall of Famer leaves a lasting legacy for Missouri Southern athletics

Former Missouri Southern baseball player, coach and Southern Hall of Famer Mike Hagedorn, '75, died December 17, 2011. Hagedorn, 59, played for Missouri Southern in 1974 and 1975 after transferring from Crowder College. He was an assistant coach on Warren Turner's staff from 1983-2005. He was currently serving as an independent sales representative for Johnny Mac's Sporting Goods in St. Louis. Hagedorn led the Lions in home runs (7) and RBIs (26) in 1974 and tied for the team lead in triples (5) in 1975. He was inducted into the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 1992.

Hagedorn is survived by his wife, Penney, and three children. His son, Tucker, '00, also played at Southern.



Tragic accident claims the lives of two Lions, two other athletes recover from their injuries

Four Missouri Southern student-athletes were involved in an auto accident on I-44 between Joplin and Springfield on December 2, 2011. Two were killed, and two others were seriously injured. Three of the student-athletes were members of the football team, while a fourth was a member of the golf team.

The two students killed in the accident were Michael McCrimmons, freshman defensive back, and Diondre Johnson, redshirt freshman tight end. Both were from Springfield, Missouri.

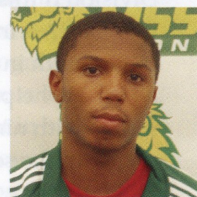
Injured in the accident were Jeremy Johnson, freshman football player from Harrison, Arkansas, and Patrick Holt, freshman golfer from Rogers, Arkansas.

A team meeting with football players was held the day of the accident in Phelps Theatre in Billingsly Student Center. Athletics Director Jared Bruggeman and former head coach Bart Tatum, in addition to other athletic department officials and counselors, met with the student-athletes. The University held a candlelight vigil in remembrance of the two students the evening of December 2 at the Flag of Freedom Plaza on the campus oval. A remembrance service was held the following week.

In a statement released by MSSU, Dr. Bruce W. Speck, university president, said, "Our prayers go out to their families and friends."



Diondre Johnson



Michael McCrimmons

— From Staff Reports

Q&A:

CLS graduate's determination leads to a private business with big ambition as this software development company attracts major clients.

Q: What is your business and what motivated you to start your own software company?

A: I started Feagans Systems Development formally in November of 2010. Before that I had been working part-time on the side doing smaller projects for a couple of clients. Before I actually started the business, I hadn't envisioned it growing into much more than a side job. During my entire career at MSSU, I worked full-time at an animal feed supplier in Neosho (Nutra Blend LLC). This company was a growing organization where I was able to climb my way into middle management over my 10-year tenure there. I learned a lot about management, business, people and life during this time. I was a full-time student, I had a wife and three kids, I had a full-time job and I was dabbling in software development. After I graduated from Missouri Southern, I attended the University of Arkansas, where I received my Master's of Information Systems. During this time, I focused more on expanding my skill set and becoming a better software developer. This allowed me to talk to bigger clients and get some experience selling myself as a freelance software developer. In May 2010, I landed a large project with an ongoing client who I had been working with for a year. At that point I realized I had a potential to establish myself as a company.

Q: You've received contracts with a few big companies. Can you name some of these companies and what their business means for your company?

A: My first good client was a company based out of Oregon, Surety Solutions LLC. This company specializes in brokering surety bonds. They had a very good business process and were successful when I started working for them. However, they had very little Web presence and centered around a paper-reliant business model. I was able to automate their processes by taking their application process to the Web. The next big client I hooked up with was Infinity Lending Services. This company



Brett Feagans, '09, small business owner, gives advice to start a business and shares the key to his success. — Submitted photo

offers a service that provides software for loan companies. The latest big client is Lockheed Martin. They are a major supplier to the U.S. Department of Defense. We are developing a Web-based system that will manage their worldwide trade-show scheduling and planning.

Q: What has been the key to your success?

A: Hard work, I guess. I found out quickly that working for yourself, let alone starting an actual business, isn't all fun and games. I work 80+ hours a week and sometimes feel the stress of the pressure that comes along with a business. However, when things go well, there are awesome rewards. These rewards are not just financial but also personal satisfaction in knowing that you have created jobs and contributed to bettering the economy.

Q: How did MSSU prepare you for starting this business?

A: MSSU gave me an education in all aspects of my studies. Honestly, to be successful I had to take it on myself to learn above and beyond what was being

taught in the classroom. What MSSU provided me was a baseline or starting point where I could take the fundamentals of computer science and business that I had learned and run with it.

Q: What advice do you have for others who are hoping to start their own business?

A: If you plan to go into business, you should spend plenty of time to research the market that you will be entering. Find out how other companies have succeeded in that market and why others fail. Try to find a niche and get a great deal of understanding on the product or services that you wish to offer. You won't be able to prepare for everything that will be thrown in front of you, but there are many aspects of business that you can prepare for. Things like taxes, legalities, human resources, contracting, outsourcing, etc. are common in any line of business. Planning in these areas will allow you to spend your precious time focusing on the other aspects that are going to be unexpected. Save as much as possible. If you can get investors, great! If not, then that can be OK, too, depending on the type of business that you will be starting. I develop computer software which has a low entry cost. This allowed me to save up enough money to start without loans or investors. Set goals on paper. Having goals will allow you to measure your successes or failures personally. It's OK to start small. If you intend to start a business and be a billion dollar company in a year, then you'll probably have better luck with the lottery. I was able to learn a lot while working part-time as a freelance developer. This allowed me to ease into this new business venture. If I would have had to learn everything that I needed to run my business all at once I wouldn't be in business today.

— Joanna Lee, '12

Brett Feagans graduated in 2009 with a degree in computer information systems. He is the president and owner of Feagans Systems Development. He and his wife and children live in Neosho, Missouri.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Former instructor brings history to life with hydroplane boat.

As a young boy growing up in Seattle in the 1950s, when professional sports had not yet made their debut, hydroplane racing was a way of life for Dr. William Black, a Joplin physician.

Black, former Missouri Southern anatomy instructor, looks back on his childhood with fond memories. On the weekends, family and friends would gather at the lake to watch boats from near and far compete in races. The young boys gathered along the fence to drool over the boats.

One day, on a typical racing weekend in Seattle, Black was at the lake with his family. He was camped out in his usual spot along the fence and longing to be behind the wheel of one of those boats.

It was then that Black saw the shiny green paint of the Gale V for the first time. He fell in love with the boat from Detroit instantly. From that moment on, he knew he wanted that beauty to be his.

Once he entered the military, Black's dreams of owning the boat were put on

hold, but he always kept the Gale V in the back of his mind. He couldn't forget the green paint and mahogany wood of that nautical masterpiece.

"I never gave up on seeing that boat again," he said.

After Black finished in the military, he and his family settled in Joplin. Remembering his childhood dream, Black decided to do some research on the boat in his free time. It didn't take long for Black to discover the Gale V had been damaged dur-



Facing page left, former faculty member Dr. Bill Black and his wife, Judy, stand with the replica of the Gale V. A special trailer transports the boat so it can be lifted with a crane and placed into the water. Above left, Black holds one of the pistons used in the motor (above right), which is a V-12 from a vintage military airplane. Below right, the inner bow of the boat is solid wood construction and hand built by the owners. — Photos by Andrew Pavlovic, '11

ing a test run and was burned beyond repair.

After this discovery, Black decided to do whatever it took to replicate the boat and fulfill his childhood dream. In 2003, Black's childhood dream of owning the Gale V became a distant possibility. Now, nine years later, he has plans to race a Gale V replica this summer.

As a child, Black had kept his admiration for the boat a secret. As a native of Seattle, being a fan of a boat originating from Detroit was unheard of. The two cities had a long-standing hydroplane racing rivalry, and they competed vigorously every year in the Gold Cup race. When the Gale V won the Gold Cup in 1955, Black hid his enthusiasm from friends and family.

But he couldn't hide his love for the boat forever. After deciding to replicate the boat, he enrolled in a woodworking class at Joplin's Franklin Technology Center to see if he was capable of taking on this monstrous task. After working on several smaller projects, Black decided he was ready.

"I thought, 'OK, I can do this. Now let's start building this boat,'" Black said.

He acquired as many pictures and as much background information on the boat as he could. He then started gathering parts for the boat. Some of these were from the original Gale V. In 2007, he started the actual building and construction of the Gale V in a shed behind his home. His dream finally started to come together.

After nearly three years and many hours of dedication, what started out as a pile of wood transformed into an almost exact replica of the original Gale V. From

"It's been a learning experience. I learned the whole process from scratch. I've just been flying blind and learning everything along the way."

the green paint to the massive dimensions, one may not be able to tell the difference.

"It's been a learning experience," Black said, "I learned the whole process from scratch. I've just been flying blind and learning everything along the way."

But it has all been worth it. "I still feel the same way about this boat as I did the first day I saw it," Black said.

The project has also turned into a family affair. Black's family members have been rooting for him since day one and are his biggest fans. Whenever

Black would get discouraged while building the Gale V, his wife, Judy, was always there to give him an extra push.

"She would tell me, 'That boat isn't getting built by itself; get down there and work on it,'" he said.

Black's daughter, Morgan Black, '11, looks up to her dad for following his dreams.

"I admire my dad more than anybody else on the planet. He has worked so hard his whole life to reach this dream, and he has finally done it," she said.

Black expects to be finished with the boat by this spring and racing it along with several other vintage boats in Detroit and Madison, Indiana, this summer. The boat owners want to bring back the tradition of the old races. This will be Black's first time behind the wheel.

"I definitely won't miss the big day when he puts it in the water for the first time," his daughter said.

"I will be his biggest fan." **E**

— Heather Carlton, '11



GALE V FUN FACTS

- ▶ The original owner of the Gale V is no longer living, his family christened Dr. Bill Black's replica boat when it was in Detroit in 2009.
- ▶ Black's boat will race for the first time in summer 2012 in Detroit and Madison, Indiana.
- ▶ The Gale V replica weighs 6,000 pounds, is 30 feet long, and 12 feet wide.
- ▶ The boat's top speed is 180 mph.
- ▶ The boat is powered by a World War II airplane engine.

Source: Dr. William Black

Cement your legacy with a courtyard brick at The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center

(You can pay by check or credit card)

Personalized Brick Order Form

The 4 x 8 brick can be imprinted with three lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces). The 8 x 8 brick can be imprinted with six lines of up to 15 characters per line (including spaces) or one company logo. Please print (with capital letters) the name or message you would like on your brick in the boxes below, or attach a black and white camera ready corporate logo to the form. MSSU Alumni Association reserves the right to choose type size and arrange words to maintain balance and improve legibility.

Brick #1:

Brick #2:

Brick #3:

Brick #4:

Corporate Brick Order:



The Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center's Alumni Courtyard is complete, but brick spaces are still available. Join your fellow alumni and secure a brick in your name, for your organization or as a memorial.

Brick Program

I wish to donate the following tax-deductible:

() \$500

8 x 8 Paver

Six Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

or Company Logo

() \$100

4 x 8 Paver

Three Lines, 15 Characters Each Line

Payment method:

() Check

() Credit Card

Credit Card: ()

VISA

()

MasterCard

()

Discover

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security #: _____ (three digits on back of card)

Please fill out all fields:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

____ Please send me ____ cards to acknowledge my gift to forward to my honorees.



75th Anniversary Alumni Survey

We'd like to hear from you. Please take a few moments to fill out this short survey. Once you have completed the survey, mail it to: Missouri Southern Alumni Association, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801. Or, put your answers in an email message and send to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu. Thank you for helping us make this celebration unique and special for our alumni!

What years did you attend Joplin Junior College, MSSC or MSSU? _____

Did you marry your college sweetheart? _____

What was your favorite night spot? _____

Now looking back, could you sum up your experience at college? _____

Who was your favorite professor and why? _____

What were the "in style" fashions? _____

Where did you shop for your clothes? _____

How much did you spend a week? _____

What surprised you most about your time at college? _____

Who was your first date at college and where did you go? _____

How much time did you devote to studying? _____

Where was your favorite place to hang out between classes? _____

What was a common pastime for you? _____

What was your toughest class and why? _____

What other activities were you involved in that were college related? _____

Please give us your name and address: _____

CLASSNOTES

19 69

Chuck Surface, '69, is the Director of Economic Development for the city of Webb City, Missouri.

19 70

Steven Smith, '70, is a Farmers Insurance Agent with the Steve Smith Insurance Agency.

19 74

Carol Ruhl, '74, is the Executive Assistant in the University Advancement Office at Northwest Missouri State University.

19 79

Kenneth "Leon" Bolding, '79, is a project manager at All State Tank Manufacturing.

19 80

Kim Gallemore, '80, is an IT manager at Leggett & Platt Inc.

19 87

Jeffery Long, '87, is a Sales Representative for Leggett & Platt Inc.

19 88

Sherry (White) Hollandsworth, '88, is the owner of the Lil' Café in Commerce, Oklahoma.

19 91

Richard Taffner, '91, is the Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Health.

Scott R. Sloan, '91, is the Operation Manager for the Temp Control Division at PAM Transport Inc.

Stephen Wendler, '91, is an Accountant for the Mt. Vernon, Missouri, R-V School District.

Jason Gage, '91, is the City Manager for Salina, Kansas.

Susan Randles, '91, is a preschool teacher for Martin Luther School in Joplin, Missouri.

19 92

Emily (Casavecchia) DeFranco, '92, is an Assistant Professor at the University Of Cincinnati School Of Medicine.

19 93

Sabrina Parker, '93, is operating a successful law firm in the Greater Metro-Atlanta Area.

19 94

David Brunett, '94, is a Territory Manager at Cardinal Health Inc.

Sarah Smith, '94, is the Senior IT Auditor for Triumph Aerostructures at Vought Aircraft Division.

Kaylea Hutson, '94, is the director of children's ministry for St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.

19 95

John Moore, '95, is the Intermediate Basis Administrator for Tamko Building Products, Inc.

19 96

Rikki Smith, '96, is the Coordinator of Service Learning at Missouri Southern.

Jon Franks Jr., '96, is a Physical Education Teacher and Assistant Football Coach for Lebanon, Missouri, R-III School District

19 98

Ryan Baker, '98, is a usability engineer with Microsoft in Seattle, Washington.

Brent Young, '98, is a division director at the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.

19 99

Delihna (Manuel) Ehmes, '99, is an Associate Professor at the College of Micronesia-FSM in Palikir, Pohnpei.

20 01

Mark Shryock, '01, is a professor of English at Kangnam Wonju National University in South Korea.

Sharon Hallum, '01, is campus marketing manager for Chartwells at Washburn University.

20 02

Jeff Meredith, '02, is the Member Relations Coordinator at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

20 03

Autumn Earnshaw, '03, is an Academic Adviser for Southern New Hampshire University.

Angie (Benyo) McGrew, '03, is the Manager for Implementation and Design of Small Formats for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Larry Thimmesch, '03, is the Vice President of Commercial Programs at Bell Helicopter.

20 04

Matthew Johnston, '04, is the planning director for the home office of Sam's Club grocery, beverage and snacks.

Mitch Randles, '04, is the Fire Chief for the Joplin Fire Department.

Kylee (Mann) Skahan, '04, is a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Stormont Vail Healthcare.

20 05

Mary Alice Claypool, '05, is the Executive Assistant to the CFO at Central College.

Tanya Klue, '05, is the Community Support Specialist, TCM at the Ozark Center.

20 06

Kevin Haddock, '06, is the Task Manager for NSW Crane.

Angela N. Pierce, '06, is a chiropractic physician and a doctoral student selected to receive the Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship at the University of Kansas for the 2011-12 academic year.

20 08

Neil Stoessel, '08, is a registered nurse at Barnes Jewish Hospital.

George Wright, '08, is a Trooper for the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

20 09

Elizabeth (Welters) Cheney, '09, is an Executive Administrator at Bella Investment Group, LLC.

20 10

Ben Pantzlaff, '10, works for the commodity management firm ,Gavilion, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Steven Brigham II, '10, Social Studies Instructor for Golden City, Missouri, School

District, Teacher of Honor Award from Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education.

Carrie Spry, '10, is a Credit Analyst at the People's Bank of Seneca.

2011 Jennifer Head, '11, Graduate Studies and Lifelong Learning Recruiter-Adviser at Missouri Southern State University completed Leadership Monett.

Nathan Hicks, '11, is an Admissions Coun-

selor at Missouri Southern State University.

Stan Heater is Planning Director for Economic Security Corp. and Executive Director for Joplin-based Region 10 Area Agency on Aging.

— ClassNotes reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

IN MEMORIAM

Joplin Junior College

Jeanie Dickey
February 3, 2011
Horace Jackson
July 15, 2011
William Terry James
August 4, 2011
Sheryl L. Turnbow
July 12, 2011

MSSU Police Academy

Walter "Allen" Miller
September 17, 2011

1940s

Jesse Reed, '48
April 30, 2011

1950s

Jack Flournoy, '50
March 12, 2011

1960s

Gary L. Thomas, '65
April 18, 2011
Alden "Skip" Drouin, '69
June 02, 2011

1970s

Victoria S. Derryberry, '71
December 24, 2011
Martha Day, '72
December 18, 2011
Brian Hauck, '75
April 22, 2011
Michael Hagedorn, '76
December 17, 2011
David Shouse, '76
November 27, 2011

1980s

Deborah Sue (Bright) Moore, '84
March 31, 2011
Kimberly Adams, '85
January 24, 2011
Becky (Sinn) Blaser, '86
July 20, 2011
Carolyn F. Dunning, '88
October 10, 2011

1990s

Lisa Gay Culp Workman, '90
October 20, 2011
Patricia Thomas, '93
April 28, 2011

2000s

Preston Smith, '08
November 1, 2011

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Vernon C. Clark
December 16, 2011
Gloria Colbert
July 19, 2011
Brenda Elliott
May 2, 2011
Earl Sam Gibson
January 30, 2011
Annabelle Hall
November 15, 2011
Cyrena Johnson
June 16, 2011
Helen L. Larson
June 28, 2011
Charles Martin Jr.
May 7, 2011
I.D. Jack Newton Jr.
August 24, 2011
Linda Peters
May 10, 2011
Helen Rogers
August 5, 2011

Bertha Jean Shaffer

December 7, 2011
Roger Sinnard
February 9, 2011
Flora M. Peters Sinnard
March 20, 2011
Samuel Starkey
May 10, 2011
Monte Stratton
January 12, 2011
Andrew J. Thompson
July 2, 2011
Eugene and Melva Turner
August 23, 2011
Larry Whitehead
October 28, 2011

Memoriam is current as of January 1, 2012. For additions in the next issue, please send an email to AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu or give us a call at 417-659-LION.

LIONLOVE



Shawn and Amy Stredney- Horton, '04, were married on June 17, 2011.

Taylor, '10, and Jordynnn (Poe) Griffith, '12, were married on June 25, 2011

Corey, '11, and Danielle (White) Reynolds, '09, were married on July 2, 2011

Shawn, '10, and Elizabeth (Welters), '09, Cheney were married on January 29, 2011

FUTURELIONS

Matthew and Rachel (Mastin) Stanley, '05, welcomed Piper Joy Stanley on June 25, 2011

Deke, '11, and Trisha (Reed) Beckett, '07, welcomed Kestyn Michael Beckett on April 20, 2011. He joins Sister Addison.

Richard and Julie (Gillispie) Moss, '01, welcomed Mason John Moss on September 14, 2010.

Chris and Rebecca (Watts) Haines, '08, welcomed Nolan Paul Haines on April 6, 2011.

Aspen, '02 and Carissa Berning, '03 and '06, welcomed Colsyn Emerson Berning on July 11, 2011. He joins brother Cayden and sister Awbree.

Keep in touch!

Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni?
Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association
3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, MO 64801
or via email, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu

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Time passes quickly!

Plan now to attend a variety of events in fall 2012 and spring 2013 as Missouri Southern celebrates 75 years of Lion pride. Please call 417-659-LION or visit www.mssu.edu/75th-anniversary for more information.

